

# **AGING 2020**

## **Arizona's Plan for an Aging Population**

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### **What is Aging 2020?**

By 2020, at least one in four Arizonans will be over age 60. How Arizona can best prepare to address the challenges and opportunities of an aging population is the focus of Aging 2020 – an initiative that Governor Janet Napolitano created through Executive Order 2004-07 in March 2004. It directs state agencies to develop plans to address the needs of Arizona's rapidly growing population of senior citizens over the next 15 years. Each state agency's plan looks at both the needs of its internal workforce and of its constituency, focusing on issues such as fewer available workers and an increasing need for health and social services that will affect the business of all state agencies.

In developing their draft Aging 2020 plans, each state agency answered four questions that were used to guide its assessment and planning process. The questions addressed the agency's policy issues, direction, and program considerations, and asked for recommended actions and anticipated results. Initial drafts of the agencies' plans were completed by September 30, 2004. The following state agencies are participating in the Aging 2020 planning process: Administration, AHCCCS, Commerce, Corrections, Economic Security, Health, Housing, Parks, Public Safety, Transportation, and Veteran's Services. The Office of the Attorney General and the Board of Regents have also volunteered to participate in the Aging 2020 initiative.

### **What are the Aging 2020 Forums?**

The next stage of Aging 2020 involves securing community input on the draft state agency plans. The Office of the Governor, in collaboration with Area Agencies on Aging, the Arizona Community College Association and local community colleges, are convening forums statewide to gather input from community leaders throughout Arizona. Forums will be held on community college campuses in approximately twenty-five Arizona communities. Each forum will be two hours in length.

### **Who attends the forums?**

Representatives from different sectors in the community, including but not limited to leaders from business, government, health care, veteran services, education, nonprofit human service organizations, civic groups, students, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, and representatives of cultural and ethnic minority groups are being invited to attend. We hope to have a diverse group of people at each forum to help ensure that a rich array of ideas will be presented during the discussion.

### **How will information from the Aging 2020 Forums be used?**

Facilitators will record and relay the information and ideas obtained at the forums to the Governor's office. The Governor's Office will then work with state agencies to incorporate that information into the various agencies' plans. In addition, forum ideas may be circulated to other members of the Governor's staff for inclusion in other initiatives.

### **Are the Aging 2020 Forums the only way Arizona residents can provide input to the Governor's office about the agency plans?**

No. Everyone is invited to review and give comments on the draft Aging 2020 Plan. It is found on the Internet at: <http://www.azdes.gov/gaca/pdf/aging2020plan.pdf>. Anyone wishing to give input on the Aging 2020 plan is invited to go to this web site to access the agency plans and information on how to submit comments.

### **Why is your input important?**

Input from community leaders across Arizona is needed to help guide state agencies and ensure that further development of aging services is responsive to the ideas, values, and needs of communities and those who will be older adults in the year 2020. Your input is also important to help identify different ways to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the tremendous growth in the aging population.

### **What can Arizona communities do to prepare for the opportunities and challenges of an aging population?**

It is impossible for Arizona state agencies or any one organization or institution to adequately prepare our communities for the changes that will occur as a result of an increased older population. To ensure a high quality of life for all residents, local communities need to further engage their residents, community based organizations, local governments, business, schools, etc. to help develop both physical and social infrastructures that help older people remain in their communities throughout their lives. Identifying service gaps, piloting innovative intergenerational projects, partnering with government to provide services, and helping neighbors are some of the ways communities have already begun this work. Through these types of collaborative efforts, all sectors of our communities can play an important role in the success of the Aging 2020 plan by creating communities that are good places to live, regardless of age.